

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 to 5, 7 to 18 and 23 to 26.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

In this regard, features from claim 6 have been incorporated in claim 1. The significance of this amendment will be discussed below.

Turning to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, in claim 5, the term "adhesive" has been questioned. In reply, the adhesive is the water dispersible resin, i.e. the water soluble resin of claim 1. See, for example, page 19, bottom line to page 20, lines 1 and 2 of the present specification for support.

With regard to the rejection of the term "substantially", this no longer appears in the claims, i.e. claim 6.

Antecedent basis has been provided for the term "laminate" in claim 7.

Claims 1 to 3 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Mimura.

Further, claims 1 to 9, 12, 14 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mimura.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Mimura (U.S. 5,002,825) relates to a surface porous film. According to its disclosure, it appears that the porous layer of Mimura is composed of a water-dispersible polymer and colloidal silica particles. In this regard, the water-dispersible polymer of Mimura is different from and unsuggestive of the water-soluble resin of the present invention. Accordingly, Mimura is unsuggestive of the presently claimed material from the standpoint of composition.

Further, with regard to the pore size, Mimura requires a relatively large pore size distribution, and particularly the more preferable peak pore diameter in the pore diameter distribution curve of the porous layer is 0.10 to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (= 100 to 500 nm) (see col. 3, lines 51-

56). Mimura further discloses that if the peak pore diameter is smaller than  $0.06\ \mu\text{m}$  (60 nm), the absorption of the ink or the like is insufficient (see col. 3, lines 53-55).

On the other hand, in the present invention, since the water-soluble resin is used in a recording layer, the recording layer provides a high ink absorption rate without the formation of cracking. Accordingly, the recording material of the present invention has a high gloss and a high print density and further provides high image quality printing by forming circular dots.

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejections over Mimura are untenable and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 to 18 and 23 to 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyamoto.

Further, claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyamoto and Snowtex Product Information.

These rejections are also respectfully traversed.

Miyamoto (U.S. 4,440,827) relates to a process for producing recording papers such as ink jet recording paper, optical bar code printing paper and the like, and the process disclosed in Miyamoto is characterized by using a coating layer obtained by twice or more repeating a coating step for decreasing the amount of binder while maintaining the bonding force and having a high resolution power. Miyamoto discloses the use of colloidal silica as the inorganic fine powder to be used in combination with synthetic silica (see col. 3, line 59 and Claim 6). However, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest a recording material having a high gloss and/or a high print density as is obtained herein. See page 13, lines 10 to 13 of the present specification. Furthermore, there are no working examples using colloidal silica in Miyamoto.

The Snowtex Product Information reference clearly fails to overcome the above-discussed deficiencies of Miyamoto.


Accordingly, the rejections on Miyamoto are untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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